

4870 F Old Dominion Drive Arlington, VA 22207 September 24, 2010

US Department of Justice 10<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Avenue, NW National Security Division Counterespionage Section/Registration Unit Bond Building – Room 9300 Washington, DC 20530

Re: Registration Number 5809

To Whom It May Concern:

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Sincerely,

Ralph D. Nurnberger

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Senior Partner

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## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton Secretary of State Department of State 2201 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

We are writing today to express our concern for the safety and well being of Mustapha Salma Ould Sidi Mouloud. Mr. Sidi Mouloud was arrested by the Polisario Front on September 21, 2010, as he tried to return to his family located in one of the refugee camps controlled by the Polisario Front outside of Tindouf, Algeria.

We urge the State Department to work to secure the immediate release of Mr. Sidi Mouloud. He, and everyone in the refugee camps, should be allowed the right to movement, freedom of speech, and liberty.

Mr. Sidi Mouloud spent the last several months in Morocco on a trip sponsored by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Near the end of his trip, Mr. Sidi Mouloud gave a press conference in Smara, Morocco, in which he endorsed Morocco's initiative to grant broad autonomy to the Western Sahara as a means of resolving a three-decade old dispute that could lead to the reunification of Sahrawi families. He also announced his intention to return to his family in the Algerian refugee camps and to speak openly about what he had seen in Morocco.

Mr. Sidi Mouloud's current location and condition are unknown. Press reports indicate that he has been charged with "espionage" and "treason."

International concern has been registered by Human Rights Watch, which "urged the Polisario to disclose Mr. Sidi Mouloud's precise whereabouts, to provide him prompt access to his family and a lawyer, and to bring him promptly before an independent judicial body to determine whether there is a well-founded basis for his detention."

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Kathryn Cameron Porter, Founder and President of the Leadership Council for Human Rights, has written that, "Not only is Sidi Mouloud's arrest illegal – all he did was speak his mind; I don't remember freedom of speech having been removed from the list of fundamental rights – it raises concerns for his overall safety."

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We respectfully request your assistance in obtaining Mr. Sidi Mouloud's whereabouts and condition and securing his immediate release.

Sincerely,

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